National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

# Assessing the atmospheric impact on public health in the megacity of Dhaka, Bangladesh

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**Abstract:**

Urban areas are hot spots, contributing to climate change on multiple scales; but they are simultaneously affected by and most vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to their high density of susceptible population, their often risk-aggravating environmental conditions and low socioeconomic standards (Grimm et al. 2008, Kraas 2007). The changes in climate may have a severe impact on human illness and mortality and are likely to produce a sustained change in the occurrence and spatial distribution of diseases. Although the relationship between temperature and human health has been studied for several regions and cities in the developed world, there is still little knowledge about the atmospheric influences on the burden of disease in developing countries, in particular tropical climates. However, the increase in the speed and extent of worldwide urbanisation, often referred to as 'urban turn', is leading to the emergence of so-called megacities, more than three-quarters of which are situated in the developing world. Dhaka, now the eleventh-largest city in the world and one of the world's fastest growing, is set to accumulate many of these anticipated public health problems (Burkart et al. 2008, Roth 2007).

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## Resource Description

**Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Temperature

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

**Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

**Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Asia

**Asian Region/Country:** Other Asian Country

**Other Asian Country:** Bangladesh

**Health Impact:** ☑

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Other Health Impact

**Other Health Impact:** heat related morbidity and mortality

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** ☑

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status

**Resource Type:** ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

**Timescale:** ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified